CONFINED SPACE ENTRY DECISION FLOW CHART

Definition of a Confined Space	Definition of a Permit Required Confined Space
1. Is a space that is large enough and so configured so that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work; and 2. Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit; and 3. Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.	1. Contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere; 2. Contains a material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant; 3. Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section; or 4. Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

Is the confined space a permit space? — NO → Permit not required. Use other appropriate safe work practices.

↓ YES

Will the permit space be entered? — NO → Prevent employee entry. Do tasks from outside the permit space.

↓ YES

Can the hazards be eliminated? — YES → Permit space may be reclassified to a non-permit required confined space.

↓ NO

Can the space be maintained in a condition safe to enter by continuous forced air ventilation only? (i.e., is the only hazard atmospheric?) — YES → Space may be entered using Alternate Entry Procedures.

↓ NO

Prepare for entry via permit procedures approved by the Entry Lead Person.

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Verify acceptable entry conditions (Test results recorded, space isolated if needed, rescuers/means to summon available, entrants properly equipped, etc.) — NO → Permit not valid until conditions meet permit specifications.

↓ YES

Acceptable entry condition maintained throughout entry? — NO → Emergency exit (prohibited condition). Entrants evacuated. Entry aborted. (Call rescuers if needed). Permit is void.

↓ YES

Entry tasks completed. Permit returned and canceled.

City of Long Beach
City Safety Office